

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 60-21
JUNE 12, 2003

Information Technology
Telecommunications Service Priority

NOTICE: This publication is available at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/>.

OPR: CIO14 (M. Sikorski)
Type of Issuance: Initial

Certified by: CIO (B. West)

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This policy supercedes Chapter G-51 of the NWS Operations Manual, “Telecommunications Service Priority,” Issuance 93-5, dated April 29, 1993.

1. Priority provisioning and restoration of National Security/Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) telecommunications services is established through the Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) program. The program was established by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The National Communications System (NCS) of the Department of Homeland Security is delegated responsibility for the administration and management of the Federal TSP program.

The TSP Program authorizes and requires commercial telecommunications service vendors to provision and/or restore TSP assigned services before non-TSP services. Provisioning TSP is used to provide priority installation of new telecommunication services, while restoration TSP is used with existing telecommunications services to ensure their restoration before any non-TSP covered services.

Critical weather services provided by the National Weather Service (NWS) are integral to the NS/EP posture of the United States and are eligible for TSP assignments. This directive establishes the policy for use of TSP assignments with NWS telecommunications circuits.

2. An NWS circuit is considered “mission critical” if an outage of that circuit jeopardizes the ability of the NWS to accomplish its mission to provide timely weather related forecasts and warnings for the protection of life and property.

3. This policy will ensure all mission-critical NWS telecommunications circuits will be assigned priority and be more quickly restored when failures occur.

4. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities:
 - 4.1 The Assistant Administrator (AA) for Weather Services has established the policy that all NWS mission-critical telecommunications circuits have TSP restoration priority coverage.
 - 4.2 All Regional/National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Directors are responsible for identifying and ensuring their mission-critical telecommunications circuits have TSP restoration priority assignments.
 - 4.3 The Chief Information Officer (CIO) is responsible for identifying and ensuring all nationally managed mission-critical telecommunications circuits have TSP restoration priority assignments.
 - 4.4 The Telecommunications Infrastructure Branch (CIO14), Office of the CIO is responsible for the overall management of the NWS TSP Program and will provide the NWS interface to the NCS for all NWS organizations in requesting TSP assignments for NWS circuits. The Chief, CIO14, will ensure the NWS TSP Program is operated in accordance with NCS regulations.
5. This policy directive is supported by the references listed in Attachment 1.

<u>Signed</u>	<u>May 29, 2003</u>
John J. Kelly, Jr.	Date
Assistant Administrator	
for Weather Services	

Attachment 1

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

References

Official government TSP Web site: <http://www.ncs.gov/tsp/index.html>